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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/506,210	02/17/2000	Hiroshi Maeda	49565(904)	6833
21874	7590	08/17/2004	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP P.O. BOX 55874 BOSTON, MA 02205			POON, KING Y	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2624	DATE MAILED: 08/17/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/506,210	MAEDA, HIROSHI
	Examiner King Y. Poon	Art Unit 2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 17 February 2000 and 07 June 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amended title, specification, and the drawing has been accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1: It is unclear whether the "image data" of "image processing on the image data" of lines 5 is referring to the stored compressed and divided image data, or the combined and decompressed image data.

It is unclear whether the "stored image data" of line 13 is referring to all of the stored image data, or only the stored image data that has been combined and decompressed.

Lines 4-5 recites the limitation of "which combines and decompresses stored image data in the storing section." It is unclear in the "in the storing section" is referring to the process of "combines and decompresses" or the "stored image data."

Lines 6-7 recites the limitation of "stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section." It is unclear in the "in the storing section" is referring to the process of "stores the processed image data" or the process of "compressed and divided."

Regarding claim 3: It is unclear whether the “image data” of “image processing on the image data” of lines 7 is referring to the stored compressed and divided image data, or the combined and decompressed image data.

It is unclear whether the “image data” of “..sub image data of the image data” of lines 9 is referring to the stored compressed and divided image data, or the combined and decompressed image data.

Lines 7-8 recites the limitation of “stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section.” It is unclear in the “in the storing section” is referring to the process of “stores the processed image data” or the process of “compressed and divided.”

Regarding claim 4: It is unclear whether the “image data” of “image processing on the image data” of lines 5 is referring to the stored compressed and divided image data, or the combined and decompressed image data.

It is unclear whether the “stored image data” of line11 is referring to all of the stored image data, or only the stored image data that has been combined and decompressed.

Lines 4-5 recites the limitation of “which combines and decompresses stored image data in the storing section.” It is unclear in the “in the storing section” is referring to the process of “combines and decompresses” or the “stored image data.”

Lines 6-7 recites the limitation of “stores the processed image data that has been compressed and divided in the storing section.” It is unclear in the “in the storing

section" is referring to the process of "stores the processed image data" or the process of "compressed and divided."

Regarding claim 5: It is unclear whether the "stored image data" of line 6 is referring to all of the stored image data, or only the stored image data that has been combined and decompressed.

Regarding claim 7: It is unclear whether the "image data" of "compresses and divides the image data" of lines 2-3 is referring to the processed image data, or the unprocessed image data.

It is unclear what the term "them" (line 5) is referring to.

It is unclear what data that "the resulting data" (line 9) is referring to.

Lines 17-18 recites the limitation of "the group of the divided and compressed and compressed image data." It is unclear in the "the group of the divided and compressed and compressed image data" is referring to any group of the divided and compressed and compressed image data or the group of the divided and compressed and compressed image data that is being processed and is to be stored as disclosed in lines 18-19.

Regarding claim 10: It is unclear whether the "image data" of "compresses and divides the image data" of lines 2-3 is referring to the processed image data, or the unprocessed image data.

It is unclear what the term "them" (line 5) is referring to.

Lines 6-7 recites the limitation of "allowing image data of an image forming a subject for the combining process to preliminary posses a blank section..." It is unclear

in the "preliminary posses a blank section" is referring to the process of "allowing image data" or the process of "combining process."

It is unclear what image data the term "the inputted image data" (lines 10-11) is referring to.

Regarding claims 2, 6, 9, 11-16: Claim 2, 6, 9, 11-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph because they depend on rejected claim 1, 3, 4, 7, 10.

Response to Arguments

The argument presented by the applicant has been considered. However, because the claimed limitation is indefinite at the moment, the examiner cannot response to the argument concerning claim limitations that are indefinite.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (703) 305-0892.

8/13/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "King Y. Poon".